

RANDOM NOTES FROM ARKANSAS

H. E. WHEELER

(Concluded from page 224, Vol. 34)

BACHMAN'S SPARROW (*Peucaea aestivalis bachmani*)

The range of Bachman's Sparrow must now be extended as far West as Pope County in which territory several sets of eggs have been collected this season. Four is the usual complement of eggs, though three sets have been taken with five. It is quite rare to find a set with a Cowbird's egg in it, due doubtless to the difficulty of their finding a domed nest on the ground and placed in such situations as the Bachman's Sparrow prefers.

The first nests of this species, that is, the nests first constructed in the Spring, are masterpieces of the bird builder's art, but the second nests, when concealment is easier, or when the birds are pressed for time, are often very crude affairs, not always cylindrically shaped or even domed, and very poorly lined. They are then much like the nest of a Bob-white, but smaller and made of finer material.

These second nests are likely to be placed anywhere, but preferably in a clump of saw-briars where the grass grows sparingly. But for all this the nests are not easy to find and the parent birds are always wary. The males seem trained to do their singing at a safe distance from the nest, and to keep their mates posted as to any danger she cannot sense. And she is quite likely to leave the nest on the approach of danger without revealing its location. I have spent many hours afield in observing this species and do not hesitate to call it my favorite of all the species of our Arkansas avifauna.

BLUE GROSBEEK (*Guiraca carulea*)

In the Summer of 1920 I located one nest of this species with young birds in the neighborhood of Fayetteville, but presuming it was a common species failed to make a record of the date. About the same time it was discovered that it was a rare summer resident in Yell County. But the first nest with eggs which seems to have been located in Arkansas was taken on the University of Arkansas farm at Fayetteville, on May 31st, 1922. Three days after the nest was completed it contained one Blue Grosbeak egg, and two eggs of the Cowbird. It was apparently deserted. Later in the season several nests were reported from Pope County, the records being made by Mr. Charles Miller of London.

WARBLING VIREO (*Vireosylva gilva gilva*)

In Arkansas the Red-eyed Vireo seems to be the rarest of this tribe. Contrary to Howell's statement Bell's Vireo is perhaps the commonest of the Vireos, though this statement may need to be revised in favor of the White-eyed Vireo when the survey of the State is more complete. Bell's Vireo is a most sociable bird, singing persistently in many orchards, and loving to remain within calling distance of the farm houses in Central and Western Arkansas. Observations already made indicate the extension of its range to the Missouri and Oklahoma boundaries. Many sets of Bell's Vireo have been taken in Conway (Faulkner County) in the past three years. It is most frequently found nesting in low bushes bordering very small streams or drains, being particularly partial to young plum trees. Among its enemies must be mentioned the little green snake, and among the larger birds the Blue Jay and the Shrikes. On May 26th (1922) I heard a male singing in an apple orchard in Benton County, which is the county in the north-west corner of the state.

The Warbling Vireo has been found in both Pope and Faulkner Counties, but must still be considered a rare species with us. No authentic nesting records have as yet been reported from Arkansas.

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO (*Lanivireo flavifrons*)

Two nesting records for Arkansas may be given. A beautiful nest with four eggs was taken in a ravine near Mulberry, Arkansas, on June 5th, 1921. And this season, on May 19, 1922, a nest with four fresh eggs and an egg of the Cowbird, was taken on the top of a ridge eight miles North of London in Pope county. The species has been noted in Faulkner County, but there are no nesting records as yet.

PINE WARBLER (*Dendroica vigorsi*)

The Pine Warbler, hitherto suspected as a bird of the Pine Woods of southern Arkansas, has been observed in the rather sparse pine growths of Pope County. It has also been heard singing in a tall pine in the southern part of Faulkner County in June 1922.

BROWN THRASHER (*Troglodytes rufum*)

The breeding area assigned to this species by Howell is the hill counties in the northwest part of the state lying north of the

Arkansas River, where he classes it as a rare summer resident. I have found it to be abundant in this area, as far east as the Iron Mountain Railroad, and a common summer resident in all of the hilly counties south of the Arkansas River as well. I have examined many nests of this species in Benton, Washington and Faulkner Counties.

Conway, Ark.

SOME MICHIGAN BIRD RECORDS

BY WALTER KOELZ

These records have been selected from the notes of several years of bird study. Occasions for the making of observations have been offered only at intervals and no pretension is therefore made of listing the avifauna of any region. The data are presented rather with a view of contributing to our knowledge of the occurrence of certain species in the state.

HOLBÆLL'S GREBE—*Colymbus holbælli*.

This bird has never been met with except on the Great Lakes. Here, the fishermen say, it is not uncommonly taken in the gill nets set in shallow water, and sometimes in the pound nets. Two specimens were thus obtained off the Duck Islands on the Canadian shore of Lake Huron in October, 1919. One was seen off Les Petits Ecris, Ontario, in Lake Superior on October 4, 1921, and one was taken in the gill nets the same day.

RING-NECKED DUCK—*Marila collaris*.

A male of this species was shot at Waterloo, Jackson County, in March, 1914. A female was obtained from a hunter on September 5, 1916, at Waterloo. The bird was a young one and may have been bred in the vicinity.

SANDHILL CRANE—*Grus canadensis mexicana*.

These birds still nest in the extensive marshes of northeastern Jackson County. They arrive from the fifth to the twentieth of March and leave again some time in October. How many individuals remain to breed is not known, but in late summer there are always from twenty to thirty in a flock which roosts every night within a mile of the village of Waterloo. Cranes are extremely wary and are seldom shot.

WILSON'S SNIPE—*Gallinago delicata*.

This species probably nests every year near Waterloo. Certainly the wing-song of the male can be heard at night in April over the marshes where the snipes would be likely to breed. The nest was found once in a large pasture marsh in May, 1911. The eggs were much incubated and all but one was destroyed in blowing.